

FOR RELEASE AT 3 P.M.
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Eugene Black, retired president of the World Bank, today accepted the chairmanship of trustees for the President John F. Kennedy Library from Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy and Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Mr. Black will head a group of trustees, now being invited to serve, which will supervise plans for the Library and the public solicitation for funds with which to build it.

The President Kennedy Library, like other Presidential libraries, will be built with contributions from the public and then turned over to the federal government for public use.

The Attorney General, president of the trustees' executive and policy committee, today said the goal for the solicitation is \$10,000,000, of which \$6,000,000 will be used to build and equip the Library.

The other \$4,000,000 will be used to endow an institute, the purpose of which will be to help bring together the worlds of political affairs and scholarship.

The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation has made an initial contribution of \$1,000,000, the Attorney General said.

The Library will be located across the Charles River from Harvard University, on a site selected by the late President and donated by Harvard. The Boston Post Office has authorized the address, "President John F. Kennedy Library, Box 2500, Boston, Massachusetts 02107" for contributions from the public.

President Johnson is honorary chairman of the Library organization. Mrs. Jacqueline B. Kennedy and Senator Kennedy are vice-presidents.

Mr. Black, 65, served as president of the United States International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank, from 1949 until last May. Prior to that, he was executive director of the bank and a private bank executive. He is a trustee of the Ford Foundation and received honorary degrees from Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia, and other universities.

The trustees he heads will represent various parts of the country and various fields, such as government, business, labor, education, religion, entertainment and the arts.

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Among those who have already accepted appointment as trustees are Dean Acheson, former Secretary of State; Chief Justice Earl Warren; composer Samuel Barber; George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO; novelists John Hersey and John Steinbeck; Judge Thurgood Marshall of the U.S. Court of Appeals in New York; General Douglas MacArthur; Rabbi Nelson Glueck, archaeologist and president of the Hebrew Union College; Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, of the United Presbyterian Church, Richard Cardinal Cushing and a number of federal officials.

The Library will consist of a simple memorial room and of three major components, a museum, an archive, and an institute.

The Museum will display photographs, scientific objects and artifacts of all sorts to portray the issues, the atmosphere and the achievements of the Kennedy years. These displays will not be limited to glass cases. It is intended that modern electronics and design will be used to give exhibits a living impact. For example, there may be booths, where visitors can choose a speech or episode involving President Kennedy, and then see it on film.

The Archive will contain all the personal papers of President Kennedy and his associates, relevant public records, transcripts of meetings and interviews, and periodicals and documents bearing on him and his times. Collection and photographing of records throughout the Government is already underway, Mr. Kennedy said.

One unusual plan involving the Archive is for an "oral history" section, in which will be kept tape-recordings of interviews with persons who participated in the major events and decisions of President Kennedy's life and term in office.

These interviews will be conducted soon. The tapes will be available to scholars at the Library when it is completed, or according to the wishes of those interviewed.

The third part of the Library will be the Institute. Its purpose will be to further President Kennedy's continuing effort to join the world of ideas and the world of affairs. It will be established particularly for young people. It will concentrate on the political life of the United States and the role of the individual in government. It will emphasize the importance of individuals' participation in their government--at all levels--in the neighborhood, city, state and federal government.

This may be done through lectures and seminars and through fellowships for undergraduates interested in public affairs.

Background on Presidential Libraries

Over half a million persons from all parts of the United States and the world last year visited the four Presidential Libraries now in operation. The Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park had about 160,000 visitors (and has had over four million since it opened in 1941); the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries, at Independence, Mo., and Abilene, Kansas, each had about 150,000 visitors; and the Hoover Library at West Branch, Iowa, which was not acquired by the government until August, 1962, had about 50,000.

The Kennedy Library will be the first in a metropolitan center.

These institutions are museums as well as libraries. On the one hand, they contain the Presidential papers -- letters, drafts of speeches, memoranda, official documents; five million documents in the case of Harry Truman -- the bulk of which is of interest only to scholars and historians.

The public is more interested in the many personal items on display -- FDR's naval prints, ship models, and stamp collection; a reproduction of Truman's White House office; Truman's collection of political cartoons, and Indian headdress; and the document of surrender signed by the Japanese aboard the battleship Missouri in 1945.

It is the distinction of the Presidential Libraries that they successfully combine both elements -- they are beloved by average Americans and respected by scholars. In 1957, for example, 12 books were published (two of them Book-of-the-Month selections) which stemmed from research in the Roosevelt Library.

The Presidential Libraries were conceived by President Franklin Roosevelt as a practical solution to an old problem. The President, because his office is created by the Constitution, is the only official of the Executive Branch whose office files (or "papers") are his private property to take with him when he leaves the White House.

But although they are his personal property, they are also documents of great public interest. Thus the Congress, during the 19th Century, paid \$45,000 to recover George Washington's papers; \$20,000 for Jefferson's papers; \$20,000 for the Monroe papers; and \$18,000 for Andrew Jackson's papers. Far worse than any expense is the risk that papers may be lost or kept from historians; the Lincoln papers were not opened for research until 1949.

The plan worked out by President Roosevelt is essentially that followed in the creation of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library. The land for the institution was donated by President Roosevelt and his mother. The funds for constructing and equipping the building were raised by public subscription. The President's private collections and White House papers were to be put in this building, and the Government, in return for these immensely valuable gifts, would agree to maintain the building and its contents in perpetuity.

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library was established by a Joint Resolution of the Congress passed in 1939. More important is the Act of 1955, generally called the Presidential Libraries Act. This Act provides that the Federal Government, acting through the General Services Administration, may accept and administer gifts of buildings, land and historical materials to be operated as Presidential Libraries.

The Act also gives broad authorization for the acceptance of historical papers not only of Presidents of the United States but of their associates and contemporaries.

The Act of 1955 was nonpartisan in character and received full bipartisan support in both houses of Congress. The initial bills in the House were introduced by the majority leaders of both parties, and there was very little dissent in either House.

In no case thus far has a President asked Congress to appropriate money for the purchase of land on which a Presidential Library is to be built or for the construction of a building in which his papers, books and mementos are to be housed. The Federal Government receives as a gift not only the priceless collection of papers, books and mementos belonging to the Presidents, but the land, building and equipment necessary properly to house, protect and service them. Thus the government not only comes into possession of a vast collection of historical material at no cost to itself but is provided with the facilities to house them.

Following is information on each of the Presidential Libraries:

The Franklin D. Roosevelt Library cost about \$550,000 when built in 1941. Increased building costs are indicated by the estimated cost of two new wings to honor his late wife: \$2 million. Admission for persons over age 12 is 40 cents. The Library contains 30,000 of Roosevelt's books, as well as personal items ranging, literally, from his cradle to his wheelchair.

The Truman Library was dedicated July 6, 1957. It is 600 feet long and has 74,000 square feet of floor space. It contains a museum, a photographic laboratory, an auditorium seating 250 persons, and offices for Mr. Truman and his staff. The land for the Library was contributed by the City of Independence. The building cost about \$2 million, which came from thousands of contributions.

The Eisenhower Library, cost about \$2.5 million, which came from over 18,000 individual contributions. Part of the land was the Eisenhower family property; the rest was acquired by a private commission. The exhibits are changed from time to time; they include Hitler's Last Will and Testament, the German Surrender Document, and the reading copy of Eisenhower's "Atoms for Peace" proposal.

The Hoover Library occupies the birthplace of the former President, as well as additional land contributed by the City of West Branch. It was privately constructed and presented to the government in 1962. It includes exhibits illustrating Mr. Hoover's varied career as engineer, statesman, and humanitarian. Included are a collection of embroidered flour sacks sent by the people of Belgium and other parts of Europe in gratitude for food they received after World War II from relief agencies headed by Mr. Hoover. Also featured is the first telephone to be installed on a President's desk in the White House.

The Kennedy Library will cost an estimated \$10 million. It will be built on two acres of land contributed by Harvard University. The land is on the Charles River, between the Kresge Building and Western Avenue, near the Harvard School of Business.